

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

According to a first embodiment, and as shown in figure 1, the device has a portal-like frame 1, although the skilled person will appreciate that this frame can take a random form. Running below the portal is a conveyor belt 2 for moving the packets P for strapping in the direction of arrow [[1]] P3.

On page 5, please replace the paragraph beginning on line 1 and ending on line 10, as follows:

The band B1 and film B2 for arranging are pulled respectively from supply reels 3 and 4 (see ~~arrow~~ arrows P1, P2) and guided to clamping and welding jaws 7 and 8 via resistance mechanisms and return pulleys (not shown). A corresponding configuration can be found on the other side of the portal. In the drawing the welding jaws 7 and 8 are each provided with separate support frames, although it will be apparent that they can equally well be mounted on the same support frame when the two bands are moved towards each other in a single movement.

On page 5, please replace the paragraph beginning on line 20 and ending on line 26, as follows:

Each clamping jaw 7 of the band B1 which in this embodiment is of the strap type, is advantageously embodied with a clamping surface which is provided with teeth 7A protruding in a direction opposite to the pulling direction in order to prevent slippage resulting from the tensile force. Such clamping jaws are described in detail in the European patent application EP 98202234 of applicant.